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USELESS PAPERS IN THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS.

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L E T T E R

FROM

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL,

REFERRING

*To the act of Congress approved February 16, 1889, relating to useless papers in the Executive Departments.*

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SEPTEMBER 12, 1893.—Referred to the Committee on the Post-Office and Post-Roads and ordered to be printed.

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OFFICE OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL,  
*Washington, D. C., August 30, 1893.*

SIR: In accordance with the provisions of the act of Congress approved February 16, 1889, being "An act to authorize and provide for the disposition of useless papers in the Executive Departments," I have the honor to report that the files of this Department are burdened with an accumulation of old papers which are not needed or useful in the transaction of the current business of this Department and have no permanent value or historical interest, and also attach hereto as required by the above-mentioned act a concise statement showing the condition and character of such papers.

I have the honor to request that you will appoint, as required by the second paragraph of said act, two Representatives, who, with the two Senators required to be appointed by the presiding officer of the Senate, shall constitute a joint committee to which shall be referred this report with the accompanying statement of the condition and character of such papers, and who shall meet and examine such report and statement and the papers therein described, and submit to the Senate and House of Representatives a report of such examination and their recommendation, to the end that if they report that such files of paper or any part thereof are not needed or useful in the transaction of the current business of this Department, and have no permanent value or historical interest, they may be disposed of in the manner directed by the third paragraph of such act.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully,

W. S. BISSELL,  
*Postmaster-General.*

Hon. CHARLES F. CRISP,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT,  
OFFICE OF THE FIRST ASSISTANT POSTMASTER-GENERAL,  
*Washington, August 15, 1893.*

SIR: Referring to the provisions of section 51, Postal Laws and Regulations, edition of 1893, I beg to report, as follows, an accumulation of files of papers in this bureau which, in my judgment, are not needed or useful in the transaction of the current business of the Department, and which have no permanent value or historical interest, and may therefore be disposed of, as indicated in the said section, viz:

First. In the division of correspondence a large quantity of letters answered prior to January 1, 1891.

Second. In the Money Order Office ten volumes, containing a record of credits on money-order account granted to postmasters and of transfers from postal to money order account, and *vice versa*, made by postmasters.

Third. In the Dead Letter Office a large quantity of old jacketed applications for missing matter, which never possessed any actual value, and which pertain to cases long since finally disposed of. All such applications are recorded, and the record being in existence the cases might be revived therefrom in the very improbable event that such revival should become necessary. There are also a number of books containing memoranda evidently for merely temporary use, and a quantity of receipts for letters or parcels delivered to owners prior to the year 1882.

Fourth. In the division of salaries and allowances, a large number of papers, the accumulation of a number of years, described as follows: Jackets showing adjustments of salaries of Presidential postmasters; jackets and papers relative to allowances for clerk hire, rent, fuel, and light for first and second class post-offices; rosters of clerks of first and second class post-offices; jackets and papers relative to allowances for rent, fuel, and light for third-class post-offices; jackets and papers relative to miscellaneous allowances and cases, and papers relative to box rents, key deposits, and miscellaneous reports and correspondence.

I find no accumulation in either of the other divisions of this Bureau.

Very respectfully,

FRANK H. JONES,  
*First Assistant Postmaster-General.*

Hon. W. S. BISSELL,  
*Postmaster-General.*

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POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT,  
OFFICE OF THE SECOND ASSISTANT POSTMASTER-GENERAL,  
*Washington, D. C., August 18, 1893.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the letter of the Acting Postmaster-General, of the 1st instant, reading as follows:

If there are accumulated files of useless papers in your Bureau, you will please make a report of the same to this Office in accordance with the terms of the second paragraph of section 51 of the Postal Laws and Regulations of 1893. This information is desired that the report mentioned in section 51 may be made to Congress immediately upon its assembling.

In compliance with these instructions, I have to report that the papers hereinafter described, now on the files of this office, "are not needed or useful in the transaction of current business and have no permanent value or historical interest," and in my judgment should be destroyed.

First. Registers of arrivals and departures of mails on mail routes furnished monthly by postmasters at reporting offices in the States and for the periods herein named. These reports relate to contract terms which have expired, and for which final settlements have been made (which settlements are shown by the permanent books), and do not include any reports which have been made the basis of deductions for failures to perform service.

*Star Service.*—Maine, 1880 to 1885 and 1887 to 1891; New Hampshire, 1880 to 1885 and 1887 to 1891; Vermont, 1880 to 1891; Massachusetts, 1880 to 1885 and 1887 to 1891; Rhode Island, 1880 to 1891; Connecticut, 1880 to 1889; New York, 1880 to 1892; New Jersey, 1880 to 1885 and 1887 to 1892; Pennsylvania, 1880 to 1892; Delaware, 1880 to 1892; Maryland, 1880 to 1892; Virginia, 1879 to 1892; West Virginia, 1879 to 1891; North Carolina, 1880 to 1892; South Carolina, 1878 to 1892; Georgia, 1878 to 1892; Florida, 1878 to 1892; Alabama, 1878 to 1892; Mississippi, 1879 to 1892; Tennessee, 1880 to 1892; Kentucky, 1880 to 1892; Ohio, 1880 to 1891; Indiana, 1880 to 1891; Illinois, 1868 to 1891; Michigan, 1880 to 1887; Wisconsin, 1880 to 1883 and 1885 to 1891; Minnesota, 1879 to 1891; Iowa, 1879 to 1891; Missouri, 1879 to 1891; Arkansas, 1880 to 1890; Louisiana, 1880 to 1890; Texas, 1880 to 1890; Indian Territory, 1882 to 1890; Kansas, 1879 to 1890; Nebraska, 1879 to 1890; Dakota, 1878 to 1890; Montana, 1878 to 1882, 1884, and 1886 to 1890; Wyoming, 1878 to 1882 and 1886 to 1890; Colorado, 1875 to 1890; New Mexico, 1878 to 1890; Arizona, 1881 to 1890; Utah, 1879 to 1890; Idaho, 1879 to 1890; Washington, 1878 to 1882; Oregon, 1875 to 1890; Nevada, 1875 to 1882 and 1886 to 1890; California, 1878 to 1890; Alaska, 1881 to 1882 and 1886 to 1890; miscellaneous, 1880 to 1884.

*Railroad routes.*—Maine, 1885 and 1891 to 1892; New Hampshire, 1885 and 1891 to 1892; Vermont, 1883 to 1885 and 1891 to 1892; Massachusetts, 1883 to 1885 and 1891 to 1892; Rhode Island, 1885 and 1892; Connecticut, 1885 and 1892; New York, 1883 to 1885, and 1892; New Jersey, 1883, 1885, and 1892; Pennsylvania, 1883 to 1885, and 1892; Delaware, 1883 to 1885, and 1892; Maryland, 1883, 1885, and 1892; Virginia, 1883 to 1885, and 1892; West Virginia, 1883 to 1885, and 1892; North Carolina, 1883 to 1885, and 1892; South Carolina, 1883 to 1885, and 1892; Georgia, 1883 to 1885, and 1892; Florida, 1883 to 1885, and 1892; Alabama, 1883 to 1885, and 1892; Mississippi, 1883 to 1885, and 1892; Tennessee, 1883 to 1885, and 1892; Kentucky, 1883 to 1885, and 1892; Ohio, 1883 to 1885, and 1892; Indiana, 1883 to 1885, and 1892; Illinois, 1883 to 1885, and 1892; Michigan, 1883 to 1885, and 1892; Wisconsin, 1883, 1885, and 1892; Minnesota, 1883 to 1885, and 1892; Iowa, 1883, 1885, and 1892; Missouri, 1883 to 1885, and 1892; Arkansas, 1883 to 1885, and 1892; Louisiana, 1883 to 1885, and 1892; Texas, 1883 to 1885 and 1892; Kansas, 1883 to 1885, and 1892; Nebraska, 1883 to 1885, and 1892; Dakota, 1885; South Dakota, 1892; North Dakota, 1892; Montana, 1885 and 1892; Wyoming, 1885 and 1892; Colorado, 1883 to 1885, and 1892; New Mexico, 1885 and 1892; Arizona, 1885 and 1892; Utah, 1885 and 1892; Idaho, 1885 and 1892; Washington, 1885 and 1892; Oregon, 1885 and 1892; Nevada, 1885; California, 1883, 1885, and 1892.

*Mail messenger routes.*—Maine, 1891 to 1892; New Hampshire, 1891 to 1892; Vermont, 1891 to 1892; Massachusetts, 1891 to 1892; Rhode Island, 1891 to 1892; Connecticut, 1891 to 1892; New York, 1891 to 1892; New Jersey, 1891 to 1892; Pennsylvania, 1891 to 1892; Delaware, 1891 to 1892; Maryland, 1891 to 1892; Virginia, 1891 to 1892; West Virginia, 1891 to 1892; North Carolina, 1889 to 1892; South Carolina,

1889 to 1892; Georgia, 1888 to 1892; Florida, 1888 to 1892; Alabama, 1888 to 1892; Mississippi, 1889 to 1892; Tennessee, 1888 to 1892; Kentucky, 1888 to 1892; Ohio, 1889 to 1891; Indiana, 1888 to 1891; Illinois, 1888 to 1891; Michigan, 1888 to 1891; Wisconsin, 1888 to 1891; Minnesota, 1888 to 1891; Iowa, 1888 to 1891; Missouri, 1887 to 1891; Arkansas, 1887 to 1890; Louisiana, 1887 to 1890; Texas, 1888 to 1890; Indian Territory, 1888 to 1890; Kansas, 1888 to 1890; Nebraska, 1888 to 1890; Dakota, 1888 to 1890; Montana, 1888 to 1890; Wyoming, 1889 to 1890; Colorado, 1888 to 1890; New Mexico, 1888 to 1890; Arizona, 1889 to 1890; Utah, 1888 to 1890; Idaho, 1888 to 1890; Washington, 1888 to 1890; Oregon, 1888 to 1890; Nevada, 1888 to 1890; California, 1888 to 1890; Alaska, 1889 to 1890.

Second. Proposals for carrying the mails on star routes which were not accepted (a complete record of which may be found in the permanent books of the Department), relating to the following-named States and periods:

*Star routes (proposals not accepted).*—Maine, 1881 to 1885 and 1889 to 1893; New Hampshire, 1881 to 1885 and 1889 to 1893; Vermont, 1881 to 1885 and 1889 to 1893; Massachusetts, 1881 to 1885 and 1889 to 1893; Rhode Island, 1881 to 1885 and 1889 to 1893; Connecticut, 1881 to 1885 and 1889 to 1893; New York, 1881 to 1885 and 1889 to 1893; New Jersey, 1881 to 1885 and 1889 to 1893; Pennsylvania, 1881 to 1885 and 1889 to 1893; Delaware, 1881 to 1885 and 1889 to 1893; Maryland, 1881 to 1885 and 1889 to 1893; Virginia, 1881 to 1885 and 1889 to 1893; West Virginia, 1881 to 1885 and 1889 to 1893; North Carolina, 1880 to 1884; South Carolina, 1881 to 1884 and 1888 to 1892; Georgia, 1880 to 1884 and 1888 to 1892; Florida, 1881 to 1884 and 1888 to 1892; Alabama, 1875 to 1876, 1881 to 1884, and 1888 to 1892; Mississippi, 1875 to 1876, 1880 to 1884, and 1888 to 1892; Tennessee, 1880 to 1884, 1884 to 1888, and 1888 to 1892; Kentucky, 1880 to 1884, 1884 to 1888, and 1888 to 1892; Ohio, 1880 to 1884; Indiana, 1881 to 1885; Illinois, 1878 to 1883, 1883 to 1887, and 1887 to 1891; Michigan, 1879 to 1883 and 1887 to 1891; Wisconsin, 1879 to 1883 and 1887 to 1891; Minnesota, 1887 to 1891; Iowa, 1879 to 1883, 1883 to 1887, 1887 to 1891, and 1890 to 1891; Missouri, 1869 to 1870, 1870 to 1874, 1876 to 1879, 1879 to 1883, 1883 to 1887, and 1887 to 1891; Arkansas, 1875 to 1878, 1878 to 1882, 1882 to 1886, and 1886 to 1890; Louisiana, 1879 to 1882, 1881 to 1883, 1886 to 1890; Texas, 1878 to 1882; Indian Territory, 1886 to 1890; Nebraska, 1878 to 1882; Dakota, 1878 to 1882; Montana, 1878 to 1882; Wyoming, 1878 to 1882; Colorado, 1878 to 1882.

Third. Certificates of oaths of carriers on mail routes in the several States and periods as follows:

*Star routes.*—Maine, 1881 to 1885; New Hampshire, 1881 to 1885; Vermont, 1881 to 1885; Massachusetts, 1881 to 1885; Rhode Island, 1881 to 1885; Connecticut, 1881 to 1885; New York, 1873 to 1881 and 1889 to 1893; New Jersey, 1864 to 1872, 1877 to 1881, and 1889 to 1893; Pennsylvania, 1868 to 1877 and 1885 to 1889; Delaware, 1868 to 1872, 1877 to 1881, 1885, and 1889 to 1893; Maryland, 1868 to 1877, and 1885; Virginia, 1872 to 1876, 1879 to 1882, and 1889 to 1891; West Virginia, 1878 to 1887, and 1889 to 1891; North Carolina, 1875 to 1880 and 1884 to 1890; South Carolina, 1878 to 1888; Georgia, 1878 to 1892; Florida, 1878 to 1885 and 1888 to 1892; Alabama, 1878 to 1885 and 1888 to 1892; Mississippi, 1888 to 1892; Tennessee, 1880 to 1882 and 1884 to 1891; Kentucky, 1880 to 1884 and 1888 to 1892; Ohio, 1869 to 1891; Indiana, 1880 to 1884; Illinois, 1879 to 1891; Michigan, 1879 to 1891;



Wisconsin, 1879 to 1887; Minnesota, 1874 to 1875 and 1882 to 1888; Iowa, 1874 to 1875 and 1882 to 1888; Missouri, 1874 to 1878 and 1882 to 1890; Arkansas, 1882 to 1890; Louisiana, 1882 to 1890; Texas, 1882 to 1890; Indian Territory, 1886 to 1890; Kansas, 1874 to 1875 and 1879 to 1892; Nebraska, 1874 to 1875, 1882 to 1886, and 1890 to 1891; Dakota, 1874 to 1878, and 1881; Colorado, 1886 to 1890; Utah, 1886 to 1890; Idaho, 1886 to 1890; Oregon, 1885; Nevada, 1885; California, 1878 to 1890; Territories, 1887 to 1889; miscellaneous, 1878 to 1884, 1885 to 1886, and 1890 to 1891.

*Mail-messenger routes (oaths).*—Maine, 1890, 1891, 1892; New Hampshire, 1890, 1891, 1892, Vermont, 1890, 1891, 1892; Massachusetts, 1890, 1891, 1892; Rhode Island, 1890, 1891, 1892; Connecticut, 1890, 1891, 1892; New York, 1890, 1891, 1892; New Jersey, 1890, 1891, 1892; Pennsylvania, 1890, 1891, 1892; Delaware, 1890, 1891, 1892; Maryland, 1890, 1891, 1892; Virginia, 1890, 1891, 1892; West Virginia, 1890, 1891, 1892; North Carolina, 1890, 1891, 1892; South Carolina, 1890, 1891, 1892; Georgia, 1890, 1891, 1892; Florida, 1890, 1891, 1892; Alabama, 1890, 1891, 1892; Mississippi, 1890, 1891, 1892; Tennessee, 1890, 1891, 1892; Kentucky, 1890, 1891, 1892; Ohio, 1890 and 1891; Indiana, 1890 and 1891; Illinois, 1890 and 1891; Michigan, 1890 and 1891; Wisconsin, 1890 and 1891; Minnesota, 1890 and 1891; Iowa, 1890 and 1891; Missouri, 1890 and 1891; Arkansas, 1890; Louisiana, 1890; Texas, 1890; Indian Territory, 1890; Kansas, 1890; Nebraska, 1890; South Dakota, 1890; North Dakota, 1890; Montana, 1890; Wyoming, 1890; Colorado, 1890; New Mexico, 1890; Arizona, 1890; Utah, 1890; Idaho, 1890; Washington, 1890; Oregon, 1890; Nevada, 1890; California, 1890; miscellaneous, 1882 to 1889.

Fourth. Certificates of oaths of other postal employés, as follows:

*Miscellaneous oaths, covering all States and Territories.*—Railway post-office clerks, 1873, 1878, 1879, 1880, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1886, and 1887; messengers employed by railroad companies, 1884 to 1885; local agents, 1866 to 1867; route agents, 1868 to 1884; mail weighers, 1881 to 1882.

In connection with the above, the superintendent of foreign mails reports the following-described papers received during the period from January 1, 1868, to December 31, 1892, and now on the files of his office, which may be advantageously destroyed pursuant to the provisions of section 51 of the United States Postal Laws and Regulations, edition of 1893, the same not being needed in the transaction of current business and having no permanent value or historical interest, namely:

First. Inquiries for missing articles of mail matter, and respecting postage rates and conditions.

Second. Reports of the arrivals and dispatches of mails, and of sea post-offices.

Third. Statements of the weights of the mails.

Fourth. Reports of minor irregularities in connection with exchanges of mails.

Fifth. Requisitions for supplies of various kinds.

Yours, respectfully,

J. LOWRIE BELL,  
Second Assistant Postmaster-General.

Hon. W. S. BISSELL,  
Postmaster-General.

POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT,  
OFFICE OF THIRD ASSISTANT POSTMASTER-GENERAL,  
*Washington, D. C., August 14, 1893.*

SIR: In compliance with the request of the Acting Postmaster-General of the 1st instant, I have the honor to report that there are now on hand in this office and its several agencies the following quantities of useless papers:

1. In the office here, 2,000 pounds or more of old requisitions for postage stamps, and other forms of stamped paper; also several hundred pounds of stubs of old post-office warrants and drafts.

2. At the postage-stamp agency at New York about 600 pounds of old order sheets for stamps, and correspondence relating thereto.

3. At the postal-card agency at Birmingham, Conn., about 8,000 pounds of matter of a similar character.

4. At the stamped envelope agency at Hartford, Conn., several hundred pounds of matter of like nature.

All these files may be advantageously disposed of as waste paper.

Yours, very respectfully,

KERR CRAIGE,  
*Third Assistant Postmaster-General.*

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL.

POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT,  
OFFICE OF THE FOURTH ASSISTANT POSTMASTER-GENERAL.  
*Washington, D. C., August 4, 1893.*

SIR: In reply to your communication of the 1st instant, in which you ask that a report be made to your office, in accordance with the terms of the second paragraph of section 51 the Postal Laws and Regulations of 1893, with reference to accumulated files of useless papers in the Bureau of the Fourth Assistant Postmaster-General, I have the honor to make the following report:

In the appointment division there is a very large accumulation of old papers and cases of appointments which are not considered useful in the transaction of current business and have no permanent value or historic interest, and could be disposed of up to March 4, 1889. These papers are stored in several portions of the building, are seldom if ever called for, and take up a great deal of room which could be used for the filing of more important documents.

In the Bond Division there are about 5,000 (estimated) reports of inspectors upon the validity of bonds of postmasters at Presidential and money-order offices, made between the years 1885 and 1889, which need be no longer preserved.

In the Division of Post-Office Inspectors and Mail Depredations the following papers can be disposed of without detriment to the office work: All A, or registered, cases from No. 21932A, July 1, 1882, to No. 51248A, June 30, 1888; all B, or ordinary, cases from No. 208227B, July 1, 1885, to No. 268341B, June 30, 1891; all F, or foreign, cases from No. 19599F of July 1, 1885, to No. 80647F, June 30, 1891.

In the selection of cases to be disposed of, I would recommend that the following exceptions be made: In the A, or registered cases, that there be retained on the files permanently all cases in which money has been recovered and returned to the owner, all cases upon which arrests have been made and which contain original evidence, and all cases the contents of which indicate that they may be valuable for future use; in

the B, or ordinary cases, the same exceptions, and in particular all cases relating to the burning and robbery of post-offices; in the F, or foreign cases, the same exceptions. I would also recommend the retention on the files of all cases known in the office parlance as "special" cases, which form a separate class known as D, or depredation cases. In addition to these papers there are two or three bags of old newspapers containing obscene matter, which ought to be burned, and a quantity of old lottery circulars which are no longer needed.

The above is a full and detailed statement of the condition of the files of this bureau, and is respectfully submitted.

Very respectfully,

R. A. MAXWELL,

*Fourth Assistant Postmaster-General.*

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL.



